

LM COVID-19 Plan 2021-2022

COVID-19 Key Points

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC, PaDOH and PDE recommend universal indoor masking by all students (ages 2 and older), staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC, PaDOH and PDE recommend schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers and staff should stay home when they have signs of an infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, CDC, PaDOH and PDE guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors and other members of their households and support in-person learning.

LM protocol

- **Masking is required indoors for ALL individuals (employees, students and visitors) during high levels of community transmission in Lancaster County as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.**
- The masking requirement will become optional for all students when Lancaster County has sustained substantial, moderate, or low levels of community transmission for at least two consecutive weeks as reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.
- **Regardless of the community transmission levels in Lancaster County – all employees will be required to wear a mask indoors.**
- Masking is strongly recommended outdoors for those employees who are not fully vaccinated.
- Students WILL be required to wear a mask on buses and while receiving instruction and/or counseling services from the IU regardless of the level of community transmission.
- Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms, where possible.
- Follow current quarantine and/or isolation guidelines
- Conduct contact tracing for any positive cases in the school community
- Clean and disinfect areas and/or classrooms where a positive COVID-19 case was identified
- Visitors will be allowed in office areas only

Prevention Strategies

- Consistent and correct mask use for employees, students and visitors when indoors
- Physical distancing of students where possible
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and/or getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Visitors in office areas only

Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines

Students and employees who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should receive diagnostic testing and should begin quarantine.

People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

People who have had COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and** have recovered **and** remain without COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, fatigue) do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Any close contacts who test positive for COVID-19, or who have symptoms, should begin quarantine regardless of vaccination status or prior infection.

Close Contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms.

EXCEPTION: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:

- **Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and**
- **Other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting.**

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

How to Quarantine:

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine

- After day 10 without testing and no symptoms are present
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test may occur on day 5 or later)

You can be around others after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of quarantine)

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Contact tracing allows LM to identify which students, teachers and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should isolate, and which close contacts should quarantine.

- Fully vaccinated people who have known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are recommend to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. If asymptomatic; fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities.) In addition to correctly wearing a mask in school, they should also wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. **Fully vaccinated individuals will be required to show proof of vaccination status, after being in close contact with a COVID positive case, in order to be exempt from quarantining.**
- Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 testing. Regardless of test result, they should quarantine at home for 14 days after exposure. Options to shorten quarantine provide acceptable alternatives of a 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine combined with testing and a negative test result.

LM will notify, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible (within the same day if possible) after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Cleaning with products containing soap or detergent reduces germs on surfaces by removing contaminants and decreases risk of infection from surfaces.
- When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, daily cleaning is enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility.
- Disinfecting kills any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.
- **If there has been someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in one of our facilities within the last 24 hours, LMS will clean AND disinfect the space.**

Last updated 8/18/21